

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----110793 121822Z /50
O 121800Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0153
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12792

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR S/S

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI AND
AARON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GW, US
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S CONVERSATION WITH
BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: BONN 12512

1. FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS AIDE
RUHFUS CALLED IN THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO GIVE HIM A
MORE DETAILED READING ON THE CHANCELLOR'S CONVERSATION
WITH BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV, A CONVERSATION
THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD SUMMARIZED TO SENATOR BYRD
(REFTEL).

2. RUHFUS SAID THE CHANCELLOR WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS
FULL REPORT COULD BE PASSED TO THE SECRETARY AS WELL AS
TO DR. BRZEZINSKI AND MR. AARON OF NSC.

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3. AT THE START OF THE BRIEFING, RUHFUS POINTED OUT
THAT IT WAS CLEAR TO THE GERMANS THAT EVERYTHING SAID BY
MLADENOV HAD BEEN COORDINATED WITH OTHER WARSAW PACT
ALLIES AND THE GERMANS BELIEVE IT HAD ALSO BEEN COOR-
DINATED WITH THE SOVIET UNION, ALTHOUGH MLADENOV SAID
THAT HE SPOKE "ONLY ON BEHALF OF BULGARIA."

4. RUHFUS THEN GAVE THE FOLLOWING BRIEFING:

-- MLADENOV HAD SAID, IN THE CONVERSATION OF JULY 4, THAT THE PROCESS OF DETENTE HAD SEEMED TO ENTER A DIFFICULT PERIOD AFTER HELSINKI AND THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT EVENTS IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES.

-- MLADENOV HAD NOTED DEVELOPMENTS THAT HE THOUGHT WERE NOT IN ACCORD WITH DETENTE. HE SAID HE WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT "PLAYING THE CHINESE CARD" BY THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, BUT HE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPROPER FOR THE PRC TO BE USED AS A THREAT.

-- ADDITIONALLY, MLADENOV OBSERVED HE "VIEWED WITH CONCERN" THE DELIVERY OF ARMS TO THE PRC. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE NO GUARANTEES THAT THESE ARMS MIGHT NOT BE DIRECTED AT OTHER COUNTRIES THAN THE SOVIET UNION AT A LATER DATE.

-- SCHMIDT REPLIED THAT HE HAD EARLIER TOLD BREZHNEV OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE EVENTS IN AFRICA HAD FOR THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE US AND FOR THE WEST HAS A WHOLE WITH REGARD TO DETENTE, AND THAT RECENT ACTS HAD CONFIRMED THE IMPRESSION AND THE VIEWS THAT HE HAD CONVEYED TO
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BREZHNEV.

-- SCHMIDT ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF THE SOVIET UNION WOULD, FOR INSTANCE, DEFINE MORE CLEARLY ITS POLICY IN AFRICA AND WOULD ALSO DEFINE THE LIMITS OF THAT POLICY, E.G., WHERE THEY WOULD GO AND WHERE THEY WOULD STOP.

-- SCHMIDT OBSERVED THAT THE WEST WAS DISTURBED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(1) 30,000 CUBANS TRANSPORTED BY SOVIET PLANES WERE IN AFRICA AND HAD ALREADY BEEN INVOLVED IN TWO CONFLICTS.

(2) THE SOVIETS HAD FIRST DELIVERED ARMS TO SOMALIA AND THEN TO ETHIOPIA, AND THOSE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO WHITE HOUSE.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----110836 121823Z /50
O 121800Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0154
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

WEAPONS HAD BEEN USED IN ARMED CONFLICT BE-
TWEEN THOSE TWO STATES.

-- SCHMIDT SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME ARMS DELIVERED
BY THE US AND THE WEST AS A WHOLE TO AFRICA BUT THEIR
QUANTITIES WERE NOT AS LARGE AS THOSE DELIVERED BY THE
SOVIET UNION.

-- SCHMIDT SAID THAT ONE SHOULD NOT OVERESTIMATE WHAT
WAS HAPPENING WITH CHINA. HE SAID THE FRG KNEW OF NO
ARMS DELIVERIES FROM THE US TO THE PRC AND THAT HE
COULD CATEGORICALLY STATE THAT THERE WERE NO FRG DE-
LIVERIES TO THE PRC. HE SAID HE KNEW OF SOME EUROPEAN
DELIVERIES BUT ALSO KNEW THAT THOSE DELIVERIES HAD NOT BEEN
MADE FOR STRATEGIC PURPOSES BUT TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT
FOR THOSE WHO PRODUCED THEM. IN ANY CASE, FROM ALL HE
KNEW, THEY DID NOT APPEAR TO BE OFFENSIVE WEAPONS.

-- SCHMIDT SAID THERE WAS NO REASON TO THINK THAT NATO
AND THE FRG WOULD ALTER THEIR POLICIES TOWARD THE PRC.
HE SAID THAT POLICY CONSISTED OF HELPING THE PRC INTO
COMMUNITY OF NATIONS STEP BY STEP AND HAVING THE PRC
TAKE ITS PROPER ROLE. THERE WAS NOTHING MORE TO IT.

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-- AS FOR SOVIET RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, SCHMIDT SAID HE HAD REALIZED THAT THE NEW CHINESE LEADERS REGARD THE SOVIET UNION WITH A LACK OF RESPECT AND EVEN WITH CONTEMPT AND SCHMIDT ASKED IF IT WAS WISE FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO REACT WITH SIGNS OF FEAR AND WORRY. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE NEXT CENTURY BEFORE THE PRC COULD THREATEN THE SOVIET UNION.

-- AS FOR DETENTE, SCHMIDT EMPHASIZED THAT THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENT POSITIONS TAKEN BUT THAT HE COULD ABSOLUTELY ASSURE MLADENOV THAT, FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, HE HAD THE FULL CONVICTION THAT CARTER WANTED TO CONTINUE AND TO EXTEND DETENTE AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS COMMITTED TO THE POSITIVE CONCLUSION OF SALT II. ANY DIFFICULTIES NEGOTIATING SALT II AROSE OUT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEMS AND NOT BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER HAD CHANGED HIS MIND.

-- SCHMIDT CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE LATEST EVENTS IN AFRICA WERE SHAPING AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION. THUS, SCHMIDT OBSERVED, A CHANGE OF POLICY BY THE SOVIET UNION COULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON AMERICAN OPINION.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN12792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780285-1117
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780771/aaaachqv.tel
Line Count: 195
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d744977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 BONN 12512
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2043445
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S CONVERSATION WITH BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GE, US, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT), (MLADENOV, PETUR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d744977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014